

WOOD MATCHING

The first year I taught woodworking, I had some small pieces of wood for my young carpenters to sand. A youngster asked, "You mean each tree has a different-looking wood?" As it happened, there was a pile of wood next to the shop where we were working. I suggested he could see for himself by searching through this woodpile. Over the next few days several students spent hours cutting, sanding, and oiling pieces from the woodpile. This experience gave me the idea to make a simple matching game with different kinds of wood.

I sanded and oiled two pieces each of several kinds of wood. I glued one of the matching pieces to a card. On the card I wrote the name of the wood. Children lay out the cards and then match the loose pieces of wood to their "twins" on the card. Fir to fir. Oak to oak, etc. *Figure 56* shows the wood matching project.

A few kids liked this game so much they wanted to make a set to take home. This project is just a combination of wood sanding and wood oiling.

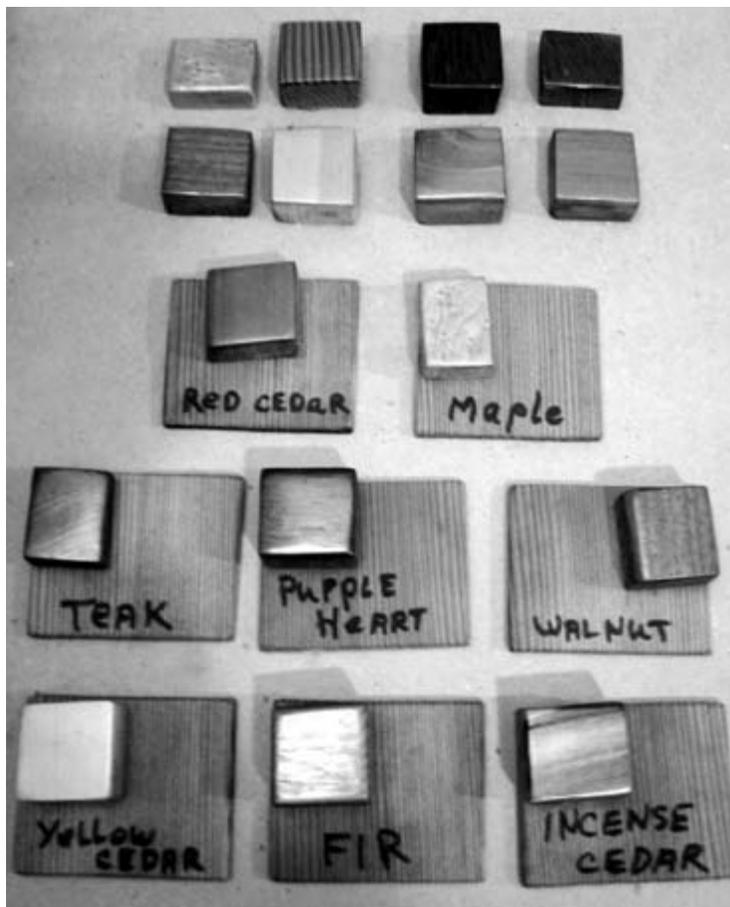


Figure 56.

Wood matching. A simple game created when a child asked, "you mean each tree has a different looking wood?"

Tools

- Vice.
- Handsaw.
- Low-temperature hot glue gun and glue sticks. White glue works well too, but takes longer to dry.
- Eye protection.
- Sandpaper, 80 grit and 220 grit.

Materials

- Mineral oil.
- Stiff paper. I use card stock. Get enough to make cards for each type of wood sanded.
- Small pieces of different kinds of wood. I choose fir, red cedar, yellow cedar, incense cedar, oak, pine, teak, mahogany and maple but any wood that sands up to look nice is good. Local woods are good. Any woodworker or cabinet shop should be able help you locate different samples.

Construction

1. Cut two similar pieces of each kind of wood.
2. Sand each piece of wood to a fine finish.
3. Glue one piece of each type of wood to the top of a 4" X 5" piece of card stock paper and write the type of wood at the bottom of the card. Younger kids will need help with the writing.
4. Put the separate matching pieces of wood in a basket or small box. Kids over five years old can make the box (page 119) themselves.